

To: Mitchell, Stacey[Mitchell.Stacey@epa.gov]; Michaud, John[Michaud.John@epa.gov]
From: Ward, W. Robert
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 9:43:05 PM
Subject: Fwd: Q from chairman Inhofe SEPE Counsel

W. Robert Ward
Regional Counsel
Region 8
Confidential - Privileged

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bohan, Suzanne" <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>
Date: August 14, 2015 at 3:34:09 PM MDT
To: "Ward, W. Robert" <Ward.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Q from chairman Inhofe SEPE Counsel

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Russo, Rebecca" <Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov>
Date: August 14, 2015 at 3:12:04 PM MDT
To: EOC Liaison <EOC_Liaison@epa.gov>, "Levine, Carolyn" <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Cc: "Urdiales, Aaron" <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>, "Stavnes, Sandra" <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>, "Madigan, Andrea" <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>, "Land, Kelcey" <Land.Kelcey@epa.gov>, "Smith, Paula" <Smith.Paula@epa.gov>, "Sisk, Richard" <Sisk.Richard@epa.gov>, "Bohan, Suzanne" <bohan.suzanne@epa.gov>, "Piggott, Amelia" <Piggott.Amelia@epa.gov>, "Williams, Laura" <williams.laura@epa.gov>, "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Q from chairman Inhofe SEPE Counsel

Please find below the final Region 8 response to the following question posed by Chairman Inhofe:

Please confirm that the time critical removal action that included the work at Gold King was the action to install a plug at the Red and Bonita mine. When was the installation

of that plug complete?

Response approved through the JIC:

The recent work at the Gold King Mine was the initial activities being conducted as part of a removal site assessment. The plan was to re-open the Gold King Mine portal and workings to investigate the conditions to assess the on-going releases. This included the extraction of an unknown amount of water ponded behind the portal debris blockage, followed by removal of the blockage and stabilization of the portal opening. When completed, the assessment would identify and characterize specific water flows into the mine and evaluate potential means to mitigate those flows if possible. This evaluation was being performed in parallel with the time-critical removal action at the Red and Bonita Mine in order to observe possible changes in the discharge at the Gold King Mine that may be caused by the installation of the bulkhead at the Red and Bonita this summer. The bulkhead was scheduled to be completed this Fall.

Please let me know if you need any additional information on this question.

Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

From: Urdiales, Aaron

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 1:59 PM

To: Russo, Rebecca

Cc: Stavnes, Sandra; Madigan, Andrea; Land, Kelcey; Smith, Paula; Sisk, Richard; Bohan, Suzanne; Piggott, Amelia; Williams, Laura; Ostrander, David

Subject: FW: Q from chairman Inhofe SEPE Counsel

Rebecca,

Here is the final language that was approved through the IC:

The recent work at the Gold King Mine was the initial activities being conducted as part of a removal site assessment. The plan was to re-open the Gold King Mine portal and workings to investigate the conditions to assess the on-going releases. This included the extraction of an unknown amount of water ponded behind the portal debris blockage, followed by removal of the blockage and stabilization of the portal opening. When completed, the assessment would identify and characterize specific water flows into the mine and evaluate potential means to mitigate those flows if possible. This evaluation was being performed in parallel with the time-critical removal action at the Red and Bonita Mine in order to observe possible changes in the discharge at the Gold King Mine that may be caused by the installation of the bulkhead at the Red and Bonita this summer. The bulkhead was scheduled to be completed this Fall.

Aaron Urdiales

RCRA/CERCLA Technical Enforcement Program

US EPA Region 8, ENF-RC

1595 Wynkoop St

Denver, CO 80202

303-312-6844